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Approved For Release 2003/04/17 : CIA-RDP78B05171A000800060058-3

NPIC/TSSG/RED-1726-69

26 AUG 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT : Request for Approval of [ ] for an Overrun in  
Contract [ ]  
for an Image Comparison Microstereoscope

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1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of additional funds for an existing contract. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 9.

2. A frequent P.I. task at NPIC is the detailed comparison of imagery from different reconnaissance missions for the detection of significant target changes. Frequently two or more sets of standard viewing instruments are necessary to examine these images concurrently. Successive switching from instrument to instrument is very inefficient and because of the wealth of detail in current high resolution imagery, exceptional feats of memory or repeated re-examination of the film imagery are required. To eliminate this mechanical inefficiency, provide more effective image comparison techniques and minimize errors, NPIC initiated in June 1967 a two-phase CPAF contract with [ ]  
[ ] for an Image Comparison Microstereoscope (ICM).  
This instrument would permit the P.I. to compare four different images with one common microstereoscope.

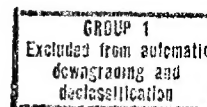
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3. A study (Phase I) was completed in early 1968, and final design and fabrication (Phase II) was started in September 1968. Phase I costs were [ ] and Phase II was funded at [ ]. A Change-in-Scope for [ ] was recently approved, bringing the total Phase II commitment to [ ]. [ ] now estimates that additional funds of [ ] will be required to complete the project.

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4. The multiplicity of functions and the compact, space-conscious instrument desired have imposed configuration design somewhat beyond the state-of-the-art. Not only are we combining essentially two microstereoscopes into one package, which will enable the P.I. to manipulate many viewing functions from one position, but we are also introducing new concepts, such as internally-mounted anamorphic

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systems, mechanisms for three different stereo and five non-stereo comparison techniques, along with an unique method of translating film stages.

5. Early in Phase II the contractor experienced difficulty with the optical design of the objective lenses and the mechanical stage linkages and in February 1969 reported a "possible" overrun of [ ] [ ] After a Design Review in May, the contractor reported an increased overrun of [ ] Of this amount, [ ] results from increases in labor and overhead rates. The primary optical problems have occurred in the design of the objective lenses. Additional design effort was necessary to meet system resolution requirements and overcome spherical aberration. In addition, these more sensitive optical designs will now require somewhat more critical alignment effort than originally anticipated. The extreme complexity of the ICM has necessitated an unusual number of mechanical reiterations of the system layout to insure subsystem compatibility and efficient positioning of control linkages. The complexity of the mechanical design has had a direct effect on the preparation of detailed drawings for release to manufacturing.

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6. Finally, over-optimistic progress reports and other symptoms of faulty management were revealed in May, and later admitted to by [ ] Concurrently, [ ] reported that the following corrective actions already were in effect: (1) a sharp reduction of other work assigned to the Project Manager, (2) transfer of the Assistant Project Manager, (3) more frequent reviews of mechanical detailing work, and (4) assignment, to section chiefs, of more responsibility for day-to-day accomplishments of the individual designers. Subsequently, [ ] management described a new task system implemented to improve both their engineering and manufacturing control procedures. They have been actively incorporated into the ICM project, including the assignment of a production control coordinator for the current manufacturing phases of the project. The daily and weekly records of this new tracking procedure are providing more precise time and cost projections, thus enhancing NPIC's management of this contract. By the Project Officer's specific request, [ ] has incorporated additional time for internal consultations and is providing monthly, more detailed, schedule charts.

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7. The technical and contractual aspects of the overrun have been communicated to IEQ. Continued interest in the ICM has been expressed and their projected equipment procurements for 1970-71 includes seven such instruments.

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8. In conclusion, it is apparent that:

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a. [ ] underestimated the cost and complexity of the ICM development and failed to provide commensurate management techniques to track work progress. They now recognize this, have improved their procedures, and appear to have thoroughly analyzed the remaining work to be done.

b. While cost-inducing delivery delays can yet occur, the risk of additional overrun is considered to be moderate.

c. Finally, the increasing quality of film acquisition systems emphasizes the continued need for more efficient techniques for the detection of changes by P.I.'s.

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9. In consideration of these facts, your approval is requested for the authorization of [ ] overrun funds for the Image Comparison Microstereoscope from FY 1967 funds

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[ ]  
Chief, Technical Services & Support Group,  
NPIC

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Attachments:

1. [ ] Cost Analysis
2. [ ] Cost Summary
3. Form 2440

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL  
Director  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I certify that FY 1967 Agency Funds are available for the Image Comparison Microstereoscope overrun, amounting to [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Budget Division, OPPB

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**Distribution:**

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